

I CLAIM:

1 1. A document holder adapted to support sheets of paper at a slight angle away from  
2 vertical through contact only at a lower part of those sheets comprising:

3 (a) a planar base plate with a side to side length of about five inches or less and  
4 a front to back width of about four inches or less and is supported on a  
5 substantially flat and horizontal surface;

6 (b) each of three posts extending rigidly up from the base plate so that the posts  
7 are essentially normal to the horizontal surface;

8 (c) each post terminating in a holding means securely holding a weighted piece  
9 at about the same vertical distance from the horizontal surface, whereby a  
10 portion of the holder below the weighted pieces defines a lower support zone  
11 and the portion of the holder above the lowest part of the weighted pieces  
12 defines an upper weighted zone;

13 (d) two of the posts are spaced apart to define ends of a base of an equilateral  
14 triangle in a top view with the third of the posts spaced apart from the others  
15 to form a top vertex of the equilateral triangle, whereby a paper retaining slot  
16 is formed between the base ends posts and the top vertex post and is  
17 adapted to cause a bottom edge of a cover sheet to abut a lowest part of the  
18 top vertex post and the lower part of inserted and supported sheets behind a  
19 cover sheet are slightly curved when the sheets are supported at topmost  
20 parts of the posts; and

21 (e) the weight of the upper weighted zone is above about half of the weight of the  
22 total weight of the holder.

1 2. The holder of claim 1 wherein the weighted pieces each weigh about two ounces or  
2 less.

1 3. The holder of claim 2 wherein weighted pieces are made of metal.

1 4. The holder of claim 3 wherein substantially all the rest of the holder is made of  
2 plastic with a density substantially less than that of the weighted pieces.

1 5. The holder of claim 1 wherein the weighted pieces have spherical surfaces which  
2 contact the sheets for support.

1 6. The holder of claim 5 wherein the weighted pieces are metal balls of approximately  
2 the same size.

1 7. The holder of claim 1 wherein the total weight of the holder is about and above 90  
2 grams.

1 8. The holder of claim 1 wherein the weighted piece supported from the top vertex post  
2 has a substantially greater lateral radius than the top vertex post.

1 9. The holder of claim 8 wherein a lowermost part of the top vertex post is cut away so  
2 that a bottom edge of the cover sheet reaches to about a line extending vertically down  
3 from the center of gravity of weighted piece supported from the top vertex post.

1 10. The holder of claim 1 wherein the holding means are substantially cup shaped and  
2 expose a spherical surface of the weighted pieces for contact with supported sheets.

1 11. The holder of claim 10 wherein the weighted pieces are chrome plated metal balls.

1 12. A document holder adapted to support two or more sets of sheets of paper apart  
2 from each other an at a slight angle away from vertical through contact only at a lower  
3 part of each set of sheets comprising:

4 (a) a planar base plate supported on a substantially flat and horizontal surface;

5 (b) three or a higher odd number posts extending rigidly up from the base plate  
6 so that the posts are essentially normal to the horizontal surface;

7 (c) each post terminating in a holding means securely holding a weighted piece  
8 at about the same vertical distance from the horizontal surface, whereby a  
9 portion of the holder below the weighted pieces defines a lower support zone  
10 and the portion of the holder above the lowest part of the weighted pieces  
11 defines an upper weighted zone;

12 (d) two first posts are spaced apart to define ends of a base of an equilateral  
13 triangle in a top view with a third post spaced forward and apart from the  
14 others to form a top vertex of the equilateral triangle, whereby a paper  
15 retaining slot is formed between the base ends posts and the top vertex post  
16 and is adapted to cause a bottom edge of a cover sheet of a first set of  
17 sheets to abut a lowest part of the top vertex post and the lower part of  
18 inserted and supported sheets behind a cover sheet are slightly curved when  
19 the sheets are supported at topmost parts of the posts; and

20 (e) one or more pairs of posts spaced apart from each other rearward from the  
21 base end posts to define one or more additional paper retaining slots and  
22 adapted to cause a bottom edge of a cover sheet of a second or higher set of  
23 sheets to abut a lowest part of the two posts forward from a more rearward  
24 set of posts and the lower part of inserted and supported sheets behind the

25                   second or higher set of sheets are slightly curved and inclined rearward when  
26                   the sheets are supported at topmost parts of the rearward posts.

1    13. The holder of claim 12 wherein the weight of the upper weighted zone is above  
2    about half of the weight of the total weight of the holder.

1    14. The holder of claim 12 wherein the holding means are substantially cup shaped  
2    and expose a spherical surface of the weighted pieces for contact with supported  
3    sheets.

1    15. The holder of claim 12 wherein the weighted pieces have spherical surfaces which  
2    contact the sheets for support.